



Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission

Pres. - John Gettinger V. Pres. – Dave Hacker
Treasurer – Robert Shepard Secretary – Dale Brier

January 9, 2013 1:00 pm

Fort Harrison State Park Inn
5830 N. Post Road
Indianapolis, IN 46216

Meeting minutes

Voting Members Present:

Allen County - Ron Zartman
Carroll County - George Mears
Cass County- Janet Fawley (alternate)
Fountain County - Robert Shepherd
Gibson County - Bill Knowles
Huntington County - Dave Hacker
Knox County - Rama Sobhani
Miami County - Kenneth Einselen
Parke County – Penny Cox
Sullivan County - John Gettinger
Tippecanoe County - Rae Schnapp (alternate)
Vigo County – Kara Kish
Wabash County - Michael Beauchamp
DNR - Dale Brier (alternate)

DNR Staff Present:

Bob Bronson - Outdoor Recreation
Jay Keith - Outdoor Recreation
Leah Kopp - Nature Preserves
Susan Ostby - Outdoor Recreation
Angie Williams - Healthy Rivers Initiative

Guests:

Phil Cox – Parke County alternate
Bernie Dahl – Banks of the Wabash
Mary Kramer – Art Spaces, Inc.
Pat Martin – City of Terre Haute
Dan McCain - Wabash & Erie Canal
Sara Peel - Wabash River Enhancement Corp.
Keith Pool – Wabash County alternate
Keith Ruble – Vigo County alternate

Non-Voting Members Present:

Leanne Whitesell – IDEM
Anicia Richardson - Tourism

Voting Members Absent:

Adams County - Ryan Noblitt
Posey County - Ralph Weinzapfel
Vermillion County – Larry Southard
Warren County - Steve Eberly
Wells County - Scott Elzey

Counties not participating

Jay County

Call to Order, Introductions, Announce Proxies, Open Agenda

President John Gettinger called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM. After member introductions, John G. asked for proxies; Scott Elzey gave his to Dave Hacker, Ralph Weinzapfel gave his to Bill Knowles, Ryan Noblitt gave his to John Gettinger, and Steve Eberly gave his to Robert Shepherd. Dale Brier discussed proxy rules once again; he stated that giving your proxy to a voting member does not count toward a quorum and does not count toward grant award points; it has a very limited use. Giving your proxy to another member or the president only gives that person an extra vote. Proxies must be given by the official member and cannot be given by the president or the Commission.

Several presentations are on the agenda and Mary Kramer, representing the Year of the River, would be added to the agenda whenever she arrives, Dale B. suggested starting with the Healthy Rivers Initiative so that the presentations would be spread out.

Officer Elections

The Nominating committee for election of officers was led by Bill K. he added that the recommendations of the committee were President – John Gettinger, Vice-President – Dave Hacker, and Treasurer – Robert Shepherd. There were no nominations from the floor. A motion to accept the officer recommendations was made and passed.

Comments from Visitors or Guests

Angie Williams, representing the Healthy Rivers Initiative, gave an update of the project.

- Announced in June 2010 by Governor Daniels
- Partnership of resource agencies and organizations
- Working with willing landowners
- The goal is to permanently protect 70,000 acres along rivers in Indiana (43,000+ acres Wabash Rivers/Sugar Creek and 26,000+ acres Muscatatuck River)

After Angie,'s presentation a brief question and answer session followed. When asked about access sites along the river she explained that access sites would be one of their top priorities. They are also open to canoe campgrounds along the river but as of now, there is nothing-specific happening. The plan for these properties is to call them conservation areas, management will be decided site by site. She also mentioned that the number one activity for these areas would be hunting and fishing because of the funds that helped buy them.

Review and Approval of November 14, 2012 Minutes

Robert Shepherd made a motion to approve the November 14 minutes with a second from Rae Schnapp, motion carried.

Presidents Report (John G.)

Nothing to report.

Finance Report (Dale Brier)

Dale announced that the current balance of the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Fund (WRHCF) is \$471,672.88 (see-attached report). Mike B. asked again if the reason for the \$8,000 administrative fee has been disclosed. John G. has not found the reason yet and is still waiting for a letter from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Mike B. also asked how much of the current balance is committed toward grants. The amount is \$400,000. John G. assured Mike B. that he would follow-up on finding more about \$8,000 administrative fee from FY 2012.

Committee Reports

Budget – Bob S. passed out a sheet on the proposed WRHCC Budget for 2013. The total budget is slated at \$74,800 with a balance of \$55,766.41 minus the \$400,000.00 for the grant round. Mike B. asked Bob S. if he budgeted for an additional \$8,000 administrative fee and Bob replied that he had. Dave H. made the motion to accept the reports as presented with a second by Ken E., motion carried.

Grants – Bob Bronson introduced himself along with the other members of the DNR Grant Staff, Susan Ostby and Jay Keith. Bob passed out a sheet of the ranked list with Ehler Island Camping in Huntington County receiving the highest score, and a grant award of \$56,000. Pittsburg Riverfront Park in Carroll County was second with a grant award of \$65,550. Montezuma Campsite in Park County was third with a grant award of \$119,922. Ouabache Park Campsite Development in Fountain County was fourth with a grant award of \$139,511. Canal

Bridge and Trail of Carroll County scored fifth with a grant award of only \$19,017. Dan McCain asked for a partial increase in funding (\$20,983) to partial fund the project at \$40,000. This was the minimum that they could get and still have a partial project. The original grant request was for \$98,760. (See attached list) Kara K. made the motion to increase the Grant Award Funding to \$420,983 to allow the increased partial funding, a second followed by Mike B. Ron Z. just wanted to be clear that Canal Bridge and Trail would be getting a total of \$40,000 instead of the original \$19,017. John G. then called for the vote and the motion carried. John G. asked about a timeframe for these projects. Bob replied that with a project starting from ground up that it should be completed in two years. He also said the grant criterion needs to be rewritten because it was such a challenge rating the projects. He added everyone needs to spread the word about the program. Bob asked if anyone had heard about the Bicentennial Nature Trust (BNT) Grants. It is strictly for land acquisition and is 50/50 matching grant funds for natural areas. The \$30 million in BNT monies have to be awarded by 2016. Bob said that a little over five million has already been allocated. There was much discussion about this program; everyone needs to spread the word making sure that communities know that this funding is available. The group discussed a media release for the grant awards. Dave H. made a motion that the five representing commissioners get together either by email or in person by the next week to come up with the leading document that describes the grant round. Rae S. seconded motion carried. Dan McCain then asked if he could just get a letter acknowledging the grant award. A new grant committee consisting of Dave H., Kara K., Rae S., Dale B., and Bob S. will talk in the next two months about the next grant round.

Water Trail – Dale reported that nobody has turned anything in since the last meeting.

Banks of the Wabash – Ken E. reported that the next meeting of the Banks of the Wabash would be January 16.

Legislative – Rae S. has been in touch with the Indiana Conservation Alliance and she wanted to report that they are trying to increase the amount of money in the Bicentennial Trust that Bob had reported on earlier. They will have projects in all 92 counties. One of the other priorities is phosphorus in rivers and educating the consumer about it. Conservation Day is on January 23 at 2:30 PM.

Newport Chemical Depot Land “Re-Use” – Penny C. said she had spoken with Susan Issacs and they are still trying to get more people working. There are 75 acres of wells that supply water to the Depot.

River Currents: Deadline is right now. The September edition had a very nice article about Ron James in it.

Year of the River presentation

Mary Kramer director of Art Spaces, Inc. and Pat Martin made a presentation about 2013 Year of the River. The 2013 Year of the River is a community-wide initiative based in West Central Indiana providing arts, cultural, environmental and educational events throughout 2013 that are focused on the Wabash River, river ecology and water as it affects our lives. They had calendars and handouts for the group.

For more information visit www.2013YearoftheRiver.com

Old Business

Indiana Bicentennial in 2016 – Rae S. said that the BMV has established a specialty license plate for the Indiana Bicentennial, fees from plate sales will help enhance the Bicentennial activities.

River Road and Heritage Community Sign programs – Ken E. has several signs but he does not have any posted. Ken has located all of the points of interest that are on the water trail maps and has it on Google maps. They have not been updated with the information that Dale is currently collecting. He has emailed the information to the Commission.

Carroll County has designated a river road. Ken does not know if they have the signs up yet or not. In Cass County, they have designated a river road as well, as does Miami, Posey and Wabash Counties. Not all of the river roads meet one another as some are on the other side of the river.

Mike B. made the comment that some of their signs are getting tremendous fading and losing their image. Bob S. made the comment that municipalities are changing sign specifications so signs now must be made high intensity. He went on to say that, each sign in each municipality had to record which way their signs were facing, how high they are and their reflectivity. The current Wabash signs are made to engineering grade, not the higher standard.

Shirt Orders – Dale reported that we do not have shirt orders yet, the orders have been sent out for bid, and we need at least three vendors to send bids to. Ken E. knows of a vendor and he is going to give the information to Dale.

River Clean-ups – Rae S. does not have any 2013 dates to report.

New Business

Future Meeting Locations –

March 13, 2013 – Knox County

May 8, 2013 – Allen County – Fox Island County Park

July 10, 2013 – Vigo County

September 11, 2013 – Vermillion County (may need back-up plan)

November 13, 2013 – Tippecanoe County

January 8, 2014 – Fort Harrison, Indianapolis

Bernie Dahl, president of the Banks of the Wabash (BOW), commented that they are always looking for new board members. He would like to have representatives from all counties as the WRHCC does. They appreciate the partnership that they have with the WRHCC. They would like to help in any way that is possible and would like to coordinate projects as well. They are interested in conservation, preservation and education.

Dave H. asked if he could be reimbursed for the flowers that he purchased for Lucky's, and Ron's funerals since it could not be done with State money. A motion was made by Ken E. to get these monies from the Banks of the Wabash, the motion carried.

An announcement was made that Arin Shaver was having her baby and that is the reason she did not attend.

Final Comments – Keith R. made the motion to adjourn at 3:25 PM with a second by Ken E.

Next Meeting – March 13, 2013 in Knox County.

2013

48686 WABASH RIVER HERITAGE CORRIDOR

REVENUE

431401 AD - Oil and Gas royalty along	74,959.54
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EXPENSES

510101 Payroll Salaries & Wages	8,877.60
516003 Payroll Social Security	621.68
517003 Payroll Perf St Pd Em COntr	266.32
517005 Payroll PERF State Share	861.13
518105 Anthem CDHP1	407.84
518107 Anthem CDHP 2	411.12
518151 Anthem Trad 2	506.06
518606 Payroll Life Insurance	12.02
518798 Payroll Delta Dental Trad	69.66
518800 Anthem Vision	6.93
518901 Payroll Employee Assistance	1.59
519006 Payroll Long Term Disability	155.31
519503 Payroll Def Comp - StateMatch	67.96
519721 Payroll Health Savings Acct 1	39.21
519725 Payroll Health Savings Acct 2	21.18
541002 Mot Veh Ex - Gasoline	261.58
547026 SpOp-Awards & Gifts	135
547038 SpOp-Recreation	134.98
591024 NonRealEstRnt-Vehicle Rentals	129.56
595110 InState Travel - Mileage	3,741.76
595120 InState Travel - Per Diem&Meal	52
595130 InState Travel - Lodging	163.72
599116 AdmOp-Event Sponsor	2,000.00
659410 Postage	89.38
	19,033.59

Balance as of July 1, 2012	415,746.93
plus revenue	74,959.54
minus expenses	-19,033.59
Balance Jan 4, 2013	471,672.88